

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 25, 37, 49 and 55-67 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 4-24, 26-36, 38-48 and 50-54 are cancelled.

Claims 63, 66 and 67 have been amended to independent form including all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

Claims 2, 3, 37, 49, 55, 58, 61 and 62 are amended to ultimately depend from claim 63. Now claims 2, 3, 25, 37, 49, 55-62, 64 and 65 ultimately depend from claim 63.

Claim 37 is further amended to correct an informality.

No new matter is entered as a result of the amendments.

Reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 37 is objected to due to a formality. Claim 37 has been amended thereby rendering the objection moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 is amended thereby rendering the objection moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-4, 37, 55 and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hell et al. (US 2001/0007352).

Claims 1 and 4 are cancelled thereby rendering the rejection directed thereto moot.

Claims 2, 3, 37, 55 and 58 now ultimately depend from claim 63 thereby rendering the rejection directed thereto moot.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 37, 55 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hell et al. is traversed and rendered moot by amendment.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 25-27, 49, 56, 57, 59-62 and 65 are rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hell et al. in view of Nakamura et al. (US 5,540,859).

Claims 25, 49, 56, 57, 59-62 and 65 now ultimately depend from claim 63 thereby rendering the rejections directed thereto moot.

Claims 26 and 27 are cancelled thereby rendering the rejections directed thereto moot.

The rejection of claims 25-27, 49, 56, 57, 59-62 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hell et al. in view of Nakamura et al. is rendered moot by amendment.

Allowable Claims

Claims 63, 64, 66 and 67 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

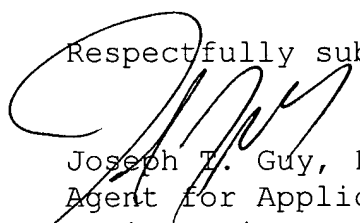
Claims 63, 66 and 67 are amended to independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 3, 25, 37, 49, 55-62, 64 and 65 now ultimately depend from claim 63 and are allowable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 63.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 2-3, 25, 37, 49 and 55-67 are pending in the present application. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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